1. Vijayawada-Dornakal-Madhira	411 km
2. Krishna Canal-Guntur-Tenali	52 Km
Total	463 km

Draft survey report of RITES on a bridge on river Sone

528. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) have submitted a draft survey report on Pahleza-Pipradih, conversion and extension to Jadunathpur Bhawanathpur with a bridge on river Sone to the Railway Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the area concerned is economically depressed and this proposed railway line would help the development process; and

(c) if so, by when Government are likely to complete the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government of Bihar had engaged the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) to undertake a techno-economic feasibility study for the construction of a B.G. line from Dehri-on-Sone to Bhavnathpur, which also includes conversion of N.G. line from Dehri-on-Sone to Pipradih. The Study has been completed and a draft report submitted. It is difficult to state, at this stage, as to when the project would be taken up or completed.

Retail market prices of essential commodities.

529. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the average retail market price of Rice (Coarse), Wheat, Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil, Vanaspati, Sugar, Tea and Kerosene Oil in February, March, April, May and June, 1990;

(b) the reasons for increase in prices, if any, and whether the increase in transportation costs has been a vital contributing factor; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the increased prices and with what outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) A statement showing the average retail prices of Rice (coarse), Wheat, Sugar, Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil, *Vanaspati,* Tea and Kerosene in February, March, April, May and June 90 is attached. *(See below)*

(b) There are a number of reasons for increase in prices. The main reasons for price rise are sharp increase in money supply during 1989-90 and earlier years, rising consumer demand, and demand and supply gap in case of some essential items like pulses and edible oils. Besides, increase in procurement and minimum support prices of some of the agricultural commodities, rise in transport cost in the wake of hike in administered prices of petrol and diesel, and increase in railway freights have contributed to inflationary trend and rise in prices.

(c) Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities. Both long term and short term measures being taken for the purpose. The measures taken by the Government broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities, effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System, monitoring of prices and availability situation, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; and augmenting domestic supplies through imports (e.g. edible oils) subject to over-all constraint of foreign exchange resources.